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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/006,568	12/10/2001	Koichi Hagiwara	Q67594	3469
7590	12/05/2006		EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20037			KIM, CHRISTOPHER S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3752	

DATE MAILED: 12/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/006,568	HAGIWARA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Christopher S. Kim	3752

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 November 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,3-7,14 and 15 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,3,4,6,7,14 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on August 22, 2006 has been entered.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Election/Restrictions

3. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 14 and 15 in the reply filed on November 17, 2006 is acknowledged.
4. Claim 5 is withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on November 17, 2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. Claims 7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 7 and 15 recite the functional limitation "...and supply and stop of powder and granular material is controlled by said controller based on the supply and stop of the pressurized liquid detected by said sensor." Applicant discloses that driving motor 11 and feeding device 7 are controlled by a controller 13. See specification, paragraph 9. Applicant further discloses that based on sensor 20, controller 13 controls drive motor 11. There is a structural gap in the claimed invention to accomplish the claimed functional limitation, i.e. the driving motor 11 and/or feeding device 7. The functional recitation is not commensurate in scope with the structural elements claimed. While features of an apparatus may be recited either structurally or functionally, claims directed to an apparatus must be distinguished from the prior art in terms of structure rather than function. See MPEP 2114.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Woodward (5,312,040).

Woodward discloses a cleaning and releasing device comprising: an injection nozzle 38; a pressurized liquid flow passage 32; a pressurized gas flow passage 62; operating means 36; detecting means 12; a hand valve 102; a switching valve 14; a controller 26, 28; powder and granular supply means 16.

Regarding claims 6 and 7, Woodward discloses a cleaning and releasing device comprising: a liquid tank (tank from which pump 36 draws fluid); a pump 36; a liquid supply passage (passage between tank and pump 36); an injection nozzle 38; a pressurized liquid flow passage 32; a pressurized gas source 61; a pressurized gas flow passage 62; a sensor 12; an operating portion 102; a controller 26, 28; a powder and granular material tank 16.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed August 22, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the injection nozzle of Woodward does not mix a pressurized liquid and a pressurized gas in the nozzle because the gas is supplied when the liquid flow is diverted through dump outlet 120. Applicant's argument is not persuasive. First, the recitation is functional and merely requires the ability to so perform. Woodwards device is capable of performing the functional recitation when the pressure falls below 1,000 psi. Additionally, MPEP 2114 requires that claims directed to an apparatus must be distinguished from the prior art in terms of structure rather than function. Second, Woodward in fact discloses mixing gas and liquid in column 7, lines 19-24, where he states, "...compressed gas and some residual moisture from the diverted high pressure fluid stream 33 will be present in the barrel 116..."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher S. Kim whose telephone number is (571) 272-4905. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Shaver can be reached on (571) 272-4720. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Christopher S. Kim
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3752

CK